Nintendo Switch 2: Pre-Order & Buying Guide

Subscribe here and get discount card

Everything to know about how Switch 2 pre-orders worked, where things stand today, and how to reserve upcoming games. Updated for July 2026.

Quick status check: the Nintendo Switch 2 console itself is no longer in a pre-order phase — it released on June 5, 2025, and is now sold as regular in-stock inventory at major retailers, though it does sell out periodically. "Pre-order" activity today mostly applies to individual games and special console bundles, not the base console.

1. How the Original Console Pre-Order Rollout Worked

When the Switch 2 was first announced, Nintendo didn't run a simple first-come-first-served pre-order. Demand was so high that Nintendo used an invite-based system through the My Nintendo Store: people who registered interest and met certain priority criteria received an email invitation, and had a 72-hour window to complete the purchase once invited.

The scale of demand was enormous. In Japan alone, roughly 2.2 million people entered the pre-order lottery for a console supply far smaller than that number, and Nintendo projected selling around 15 million units worldwide through March 2026.

At traditional retailers — Walmart, Best Buy, GameStop, Target, and others — the console was listed as "unavailable" or "coming soon" in the days leading up to launch, with very limited pre-order windows that closed almost immediately. Many shoppers ended up lining up at physical stores on launch day instead, since several retailers opened early on June 5, 2025 with walk-in stock.

2. Buying a Switch 2 Console Today

More than a year after launch, availability has stabilized. The console is generally in stock at Nintendo's own store, Walmart, Best Buy, GameStop, Target, and Amazon, though brief sellouts still happen around big game releases or holidays.

Pricing to know:

- The console has been priced at **$449** at retailers like Walmart and Amazon for much of 2026.

- A **$50 price increase to $499** has been announced, taking effect September 1, 2026 — so buying before that date locks in the lower price.
- Trade-in promotions are common; GameStop, for example, regularly offers console discounts when trading in an original Switch.

In its first year on the market, the Switch 2 sold more than 20 million units worldwide, making restocks and bundle availability somewhat unpredictable during peak shopping periods.

3. Where Pre-Orders Are Actually Happening Now: Games

Since the console itself is in regular stock, almost all current "pre-order" activity is for individual Switch 2 games ahead of their release dates. Retailers such as Amazon, Best Buy, and GameStop regularly list upcoming titles for pre-order, sometimes with small discounts for reserving early.

Game	Release Date
Star Fox (Switch 2)	June 25, 2026
Indiana Jones and the Great Circle	May 12, 2026
Tales of Arise: Beyond the Dawn Edition	May 22, 2026
Digimon Story: Time Stranger	July 10, 2026
Cult of the Lamb: Definitive Edition	July 17, 2026
Super Bomberman Collection	August 28, 2026

Note: release dates for upcoming games shift frequently. Always confirm the current date on the retailer's product page before ordering.

4. Tips for Securing a Pre-Order or Restock

Register early with Nintendo directly

For high-demand consoles or limited bundles, Nintendo has historically used its own invite system ahead of general retail availability. Creating a My Nintendo account and registering interest as soon as a product is announced remains the most reliable way to get an early shot, even if it isn't instant.

Watch multiple retailers, not just one

Stock drops are rarely synchronized. Checking Nintendo's own store, Walmart, Best Buy, Target, GameStop, and Amazon in rotation — or using a stock-tracking browser extension or app — improves the odds of catching a restock window, which can last only minutes for popular items.

Consider store pickup over shipping for launch-day items

Several major retailers have opened stores early on release days for walk-in stock, which can be faster than waiting on a pre-order shipment, especially during periods of tight supply.

Buy before announced price increases

When a retailer or Nintendo announces a future price change — such as the $449 to $499 increase set for September 1, 2026 — ordering before the effective date locks in the lower price, even if delivery happens after that date.

Double check trade-in and bundle terms

Retailer bundle pre-orders sometimes combine the console with a game or accessory at a fixed price; compare this against buying items separately, since bundles aren't always the better deal, and trade-in credit terms vary by retailer and console condition.

Prices, release dates, and stock availability change frequently and can vary by region and retailer. Always verify current details directly on the retailer's or Nintendo's official site before purchasing. Information in this guide reflects publicly available reporting as of July 2026.